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August 14, 2014

Susan Hedman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Dr Hedman -

My request to you is to authorize initiation of public process under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act relative to the proposed GTAC taconite in Ashland and Iron Counties, Wisconsin.

I am sure you are familiar enough with this situation to be aware of the appalling WI governmental process over the past several years that has resulted in the substantial weakening of our state environmental standards that would relate to this proposed mine. And I trust that enough people and organizations, including the Bad River Band, have brought to your attention the specifics of the clear and present threats posed by this project to environmental quality and public health in this region. In that regard, suffice it to say that I am in support of any EPA scrutiny & review of this proposed project as soon as possible in the timeline.

My particular request to you is to recall your own personal experience of this community and landscape in weighing the decision of whether to intervene here. I reside in rural Washburn, WI and have for the past 30+ years. I remember you living just south of Washburn, directly on the shore of Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay back in the early or mid 80s, and I recall you as a person who had her head/heart on straight. And now I learn that you are in this amazing pivotal position, both as EPA Regional Administrator and as Great Lakes Program Manager, to make a discretionary choice on whether to bring EPA review in on this project at this time.

In the time since our acquaintance, I spent 8 years in the 90s serving as a county board supervisor for Bayfield County. That experience was a powerful education for me in how to serve my community, both present and future, through collective decision making. From where I sit, even though you aren't elected to your position per se, I would consider you, and the EPA as a whole, to have a mission of public service through wise and responsible stewardship of environmental quality and integrity.

I have no doubt that this project poses an immense and multidimensional threat to the quality and integrity of our local Superior watershed environment. An environment which is in remarkably good condition at this time and is in fact a significant regional and global resource. I certainly hope you appreciate that from legal, scientific, and administrative perspectives. And even more so, I am heartened that you are someone who I know to have first hand personal knowledge and experience of this extraordinary place and environs.

I look forward to your action on all of our behalf.

Sincerely and with appreciation for your work -

Roy Settgas

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